

Application No.: 10/019,927
Amendment Dated: April 20, 2009
Reply to Office Action of: December 23, 2008

MAT-8216US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claims 6, 7, 12-15 and 17-22 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5, 8-11 and 16 are rejected. Claims 1-4, 8-11 and 16 have been amended. Claim 5 has been cancelled.

On page 2, the Official Action rejects claims 1-5, 8-11 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Official Action states various reasons for the rejections on pages 2-6 of the Official Action. Applicants have therefore amended the claims to address the Examiner's concerns. Withdrawal of the 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

On page 6, the Official Action rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, for failing to further limit the parent claim. The rejection to claim 5 is moot in view of its cancellation.

On page 21, the Official Action objects to Figs. 36 and 37 because they should be designated as "PRIOR ART." Thus, Applicants have amended Figs. 36 and 37 to have a legend that recites --PRIOR ART--. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

On page 23, the Official Action objects to the abstract because it is not in proper form. Thus, Applicants have amended the abstract to overcome this objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

On page 23, the Official Action also objects to the title of the invention as not being descriptive. Thus, Applicants have amended the title of the invention to be more descriptive. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

On page 7, the Official Action rejects claims 1-2, 8-9 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

On page 9, the Official Action rejects claims 1-5 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by AV/C Digital Interface Command Specification, Revision 3.0.

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On page 11, the Official Action rejects claims 1-3 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kawamura (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,769).

On page 15, the Official Action rejects claims 1-5, 8-9 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application (Publication No. 0 658 010) to Sony Corporation ("Sony-010"). It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited in claim 1, includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... a) signaling the unit one time for detecting the input plug or signaling the subunit one time for detecting the source plug; and

... b) receiving a single result of the detection provided by the unit signaled in step a) or the subunit signaled in step a), the result of detection identifying either the source plug or input plug as a source of the destination signal.

Claim 1 relates to determining the source of a signal by one command and one response. Specifically, the unit is signaled one time, and a single result of detection is provided by the unit. This feature is at least supported in Figs. 1 and 4 and pages 9, 10 and 18 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

The Official Action rejects the claims based on various references that utilized an IEEE1394 serial bus and AV/C Digital Interface Command Set. A problem with the standard AV/C Digital Commands utilized on the IEEE1394 bus, however, is that there are too many commands to be exchanged when a plurality of units are connected to the bus. Thus, many inquiries and responses (commands) are executed in order to control the system. This limitation is described in AAPA on page 2, lines 22 to page 3, lines 15 of the specification (*"it is necessary to exchange "Connect control command" and "Connect status command. These commands are defined in AV/C Digital Interface Command Set General Specification ... the commands include a status command for inquiring a plug connected to a designated plug, a control command for connecting two designated plugs, and others ... there are too many commands to be exchanged"*).

These multiple commands are also supported on pages 83-90 of AV/C Digital Interface Command Specification Revision 3.0. Thus, multiple commands must be executed in order to control the traditional IEEE1394 serial bus using the AV/C Digital Interface Command Sets.

Applicants' claim 1 is different than the art of record because the location of a signal may be known by a single inquiry command and a single response ("*... a) signaling the unit one time for detecting the input plug or signaling the subunit one time for detecting the source plug; and ... b) receiving a single result of the detection provided by the unit signaled in step a) or the subunit signaled in step a), the result of detection identifying either the source plug or input plug as a source of the destination signal*""). This feature is at least described on pages 9 and 10 of Applicants' specification with reference to Fig. 1. For example, a single request is made from bus 300 to determine the location of a source being sent to the destination plug and monitor 211 ("*a location of the single input source giving an input to a destination plug 211 of the monitor 210 in the TV 200 is inquired in a path 252 shown in Fig. 1*"). Responding to the single request, the monitor replies that the source is coming from the digital input plug 201 ("*the monitor 210 replies 'the destination plug 211 is obtaining an input from the video input plug 201 of the TV 200'*"). Thus, the signal source can be found by only a single inquiry as supported on page 10 of the specification ("*This is an essential point for the invention. That is, the signal source is known by one inquiry only*"). This feature is also supported in Fig. 4 and page 18 of the specification ("*PC inquires the monitor 210 about the state of the destination plug by designating the destination plug number by the command in Fig. 7. Responding to this inquiry, the monitor 210 replies 'the destination plug 211 is obtaining input form the digital input plug 201 of the TV 200' by using the 'response from a subunit when the signal source is an input plug, to a command for inquiring the signal source of the subunit*"").

AAPA, AV/C Digital Interface Command Specification, Sony-010, Sony-029, Iwamura and Kawamura all rely on the standard AV/C command set which requires more than one request and response. Thus, the combination of these references is deficient in suggesting that the features in Applicants' claim 1.

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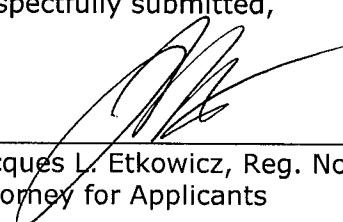
Furthermore, Kawamura has a U.S. filing date of August 30, 1999. Applicants' foreign priority date of Japanese Application H11-191250 (2000-191250) is July 6, 1999, which precedes Kawamura's U.S. filing date. The features in independent claims 1-3 and 16 are supported in. Applicants, therefore, file herewith a Verified English Translation of JP H11-191250. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claims 2, 3 and 16 have similar features to claim 1. Thus, these claims are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

Claims 4 and 8-11 include all the features of the claims from which they depend. Thus, these claims are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Abstract
Figures 36 and 37 (2 sheets)
Verified Translation of JP H11-191250

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